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SOUTH VIETNAM: Communist forces are keeping up the pressure on the provincial capital cities of Quang Tri, Hue, and Kontum, and the enemy threat has increased to the west of Saigon.

A strong North Vietnamese force, including infantry, artillery, and armor, surrounds Quang Tri City, and the outlook there is worsening. Communist gunners destroyed a large ammunition storage area in the city, and an enemy force ambushed a South Vietnamese truck convoy on Route 1 south of the city, destroying all of the artillery ammunition it was carrying. Although flying weather remains good, enemy groundfire throughout the area has been intense, and this has made it difficult to resupply the city's defenders by air.

Very little fighting was reported in the central highlands, but the airfield on the outskirts of Kontum City has come under shelling attack, and a major assault is likely against the provincial capital.

Elsewhere in the northern half of the country, fighting was limited to a few areas. The Communist 711th Division captured an isolated town in Quang Tin Province after an all-day assault, and elements of the Communist 3rd Division captured another district headquarters in Binh Dinh Province after two days of heavy fighting. The government now holds only one outpost in the northern portion of Binh Dinh Province, and that too is coming under pressure.

In Military Region 3, enemy forces continue to shell An Loc and have hampered the relief column pushing north from Chon Thanh, but the intensity of fighting in this area has declined and many enemy units are moving away from An Loc. At the same time, Communist activity has picked up in Tay Ninh Province. Enemy infantry units and tank columns have been observed crossing the Cambodian border along Route 13 in the west and Route 1 to the south.

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USSR-EGYPT: The joint communiqué issued after Egyptian President Sadat's two-day visit to Moscow makes a point of underscoring the seriousness with which both parties view the Middle East situation.

The statement, published following abbreviated Soviet-Egyptian discussions which ended Saturday, clearly reflects Arab frustration over the lack of progress toward resolving the Arab-Israeli dispute and again expresses the two parties' support for the implementation of the UN Middle East resolution of 1967. But unlike the communiqué issued in February at the conclusion of Sadat's last visit to Moscow, which had emphasized the importance of the Jarring mission, the present statement made no mention of the UN special envoy. It asserted, moreover, that if a political settlement continues to be thwarted the Arab states "have every reason to use other means" to regain the occupied territory.

The joint statement specified no new Soviet military commitments to Egypt, but merely reported that there were discussions aimed at "further increasing the military potential of Egypt" and "strengthening the military cooperation" between the two states. Moreover, unlike the previous communiqué, the defensive nature of the military aid provided by Moscow was not stressed.

Although lacking in specific new commitments that might serve significantly to ease Sadat's current dilemma, the communiqué may help satisfy the Egyptian requirement that the gravity of the Middle East situation be fully recognized during the coming US-Soviet discussions. It may also provide those Egyptians who believe political efforts are futile with some hope that an eventual resort to a military solution has not been entirely ruled out. [REDACTED]

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INDIA-PAKISTAN: The four-day discussions between Indian and Pakistani representatives which concluded in Pakistan on 29 April were difficult, but progress toward resolving issues arising from the December war is slowly being made.

In a joint statement released after the talks, the two countries announced plans for a meeting in New Delhi between Prime Minister Gandhi and President Bhutto in late May or early June. Prior to the preliminary discussions, Indian spokesmen had said that a summit might take place in early May. The longer range timetable suggests that the "cordiality and tolerance of opposing points of view" described in the joint statement need more time to ripen.

No official reports on the substance of the preliminary talks are available, but at least some agenda items for the summit were agreed upon, and

disengagement of troops and an exchange of prisoners are top items for consideration.

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Although Pakistani Foreign Office spokesmen have so far given no sign that they are prepared to grant Bangladesh early recognition, they have told press representatives that Pakistan would have no objection if Prime Minister Mujibur Rahman joined the summit talks. They may hope that the atmosphere at the conference will encourage Dacca to drop plans to try Pakistani prisoners as war criminals in Bangladesh. Dacca has yet to show any give on this issue and has insisted that Pakistan recognition come before a Bengali-Pakistani summit takes place.

Before he left Pakistan, India's principal negotiator, D. P. Dhar, held a private session with Bhutto, with whom, he said, "everything under the sun" was discussed. Kashmir, the major long-term problem between the two countries, almost certainly was raised,

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[redacted] Islamabad apparently hopes to put off consideration of this issue until there has been progress on other thorny, but not quite so sensitive, problems, such as the restoration of diplomatic relations. [redacted]

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CAMBODIA: The government continues to display an uncompromising attitude toward student agitators in Phnom Penh.

In a meeting over the weekend with student leaders, Lon Nol said that an official investigation had revealed that the government was not responsible for the shooting incident at the city's law school last Thursday, in which a number of students were wounded. The president insisted that the incident was the work of "outsiders"--despite the fact that hundreds of onlookers at the law school saw military police fire into student ranks.

Lon Nol also again accused the students of aiding the Communists by creating public disorder, and called on them to end their demonstrations at Phnom Penh's Independence Monument. At last report, however, a large gathering of students was still at the monument demanding that the government accept the blame for the shooting incident.

Student unrest did not deter the regime from going ahead yesterday with the national referendum on the new constitution. But the turnout for the balloting may well be far smaller than the government desires, in part because of the ignorance and apathy of most of the electorate. Fear of possible Communist terrorism may also keep some voters from the polls. Only two terrorist incidents were reported in Phnom Penh yesterday, however. In the more serious one, a plastic charge wounded six persons when it exploded in front of a movie theater. There have so far been no reports of any enemy efforts to disrupt the voting in other population centers or in rural areas.

Many well-educated Cambodians in Phnom Penh are convinced that the constitution will be adopted--even if there should be a significant number of votes against it [REDACTED] The Cambodians also apparently believe that, in that unlikely event, the government would doctor the returns to show that a heavy majority voted for the constitution. [REDACTED]

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CHINA-US: Peking has denounced the President for his speech on 26 April, but has still not indicated it views the Indochina situation with much alarm.

NCNA carried an account of the address on 29 April, and People's Daily ran a "commentator" article on the subject yesterday. Although relatively moderate in tone, these two items contain the most extensive direct attacks on the President since the start of the current North Vietnamese offensive. The Chinese could hardly avoid such attacks without completely ignoring the speech, however, and the lack of extreme vituperation in both accounts, as well as the delay in commenting on the address, suggests that Peking has taken pains to couch its criticism in relatively noninflammatory terms.

Both NCNA and People's Daily assert the President "blatantly" ascribed the fighting in South Vietnam to a massive North Vietnamese invasion. The People's Daily account calls such charges "slander." People's Daily also states that US assertions that US bombing of North Vietnam will continue means that Washington has "broken its promise" to end the war. Both the slander and broken promises are attributed to the "US Government," however, rather than to the President himself.

In other respects both items contain merely standard Chinese rhetoric on the Indochinese fighting. People's Daily states that the Chinese people will support the Vietnamese people as long as they continue fighting, and both items rather mildly reiterate that the way to end the war is for the US to withdraw from Indochina, cease supporting President Thieu, and "seriously consider and actively respond" to the Communist seven-point proposal--formulations Peking has been using for weeks. [REDACTED]

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BURUNDI: President Micombero, with the support of the army, remains in control of the government despite reports of widespread violence in the interior of the country.

The fighting is between rival factions within the ruling oligarchy. Apparently it was sparked by Micombero's dismissal on 29 April of his entire cabinet, which had been plagued in recent months by intense political maneuvering as a radical faction attempted to purge its moderate opponents. The radicals lost the key portfolios of justice, foreign affairs, and information, as well as a number of senior positions within the official party, as a result of Micombero's sudden move. According to the Belgian ambassador, they attempted a coup to restore their losses.

There is little likelihood, however, that the capital will be threatened, despite sporadic outbursts around the city. Micombero has appointed military governors to take charge in the interior, and although there are reports of "considerable bloodshed," the army should be able to restore order in a reasonable length of time. Given Burundi's long tradition of tribal violence, however, there is danger that Burundi's Hutu majority may seize on the factional dispute to settle old scores with its ruling Tutsi enemies.

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LAOS: Government forces regained control of Skyline Ridge overlooking Long Tieng on 29 April. About 100 irregulars, backed by air strikes, encountered relatively little opposition in clearing two positions that had been in enemy hands for the past six weeks. Elsewhere in Laos, the military situation remained essentially unchanged over the weekend.

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